

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2315

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IF, IS, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO PALESTINIAN TERRORIST RAID AND
ISRAELI RETALIATION-TITO STATEMENT

1. YUGOSLAV REACTION HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY ONE-SIDED. MEDIA REPORTED TERRORIST RAID IN CONTEXT OF NEED TO REFOCUS PEACE EFFORTS ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND NEED FOR PALESTINIAN STATE, ALONG WITH ISRAEL'S RETURN TO ITS PRE-67 WAR BORDERS. (TERRORISTS WERE REFERRED TO AS "COMMANDOS".) THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL OR EVEN IMPLICIT EDITORIAL CONDEMNATION OF THE MURDERS OF DIVILIANS, NOR WAS SADAT'S CONDEMNATION REPORTED.

2. ISRAELI CORSS-BORDER RETALIATION, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS BANNERED. ON MARCH 17 STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN TITO'S NAME, TERMING ISRAEL'S "LATEST AGRESSION...(TO BE) THE GORSSEST VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY OF AN INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND THE TRAMPLING OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW". STATEMENT SAYS ISRAEL'S AIM WAS "ELIMINATION OF THE
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PLO AS ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ME CRISIS AND FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE INALIENABLE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". STATEMENT MAINTAINS ISRAEL "FURTHER CONFIRMS ITS UNREADINESS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION...AND ITS INTENTION TO RETAIN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRIROTIES", AND CALLS ON UNSC ESPECIALLY "ITS PERMANENT MEMBERS...

TO UNDERTAKE URGENT AND RESOLUTE MEASURES" TO FORCE
ISRAEL "TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY".

3. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE REPORTED, GOY'S SUPPORT FOR THE
PALESTINIAN CAUSE HAS NOT WANED DURING LAST SIX
MONTHS' EVOLUTION OF YUGOSLAVIA'S PUBLIC POSITION ON
ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, WHICH EVIDENCED A SOMEWHAT MORE
EVANHANDED APPROACH TO ME PROBLEM. YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS
HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL IN RECENT WEEKS
OF SADAT INITIATIVE. THIS, COUPLED WITH THE SHARP
REACTION TO THE ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON, SUGGESTS THAT
THE YUGOSLAVS SENSE A CLOSING OF RANKS ON ME DISPUTE AND
WISH TO LAY TO REST ANY DOUBTS THEIR MORE FORTHCOMING
STANCE ON ISRAEL MAY HAVE ENGENDERED ABOUT THE INTENSITY
OF THEIR PRO-PALESTINIAN SYMPATHIES.
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